revered Mataji Nirmala Devi working for India to make it a leading nation in the world; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under Government's consideration to confer the award of 'Bharat Ratna' on Mataji Nirmala Devi.

Killing of an old Man by Travel Agents In Delhi

822. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 16th November, 1999 about a sixty year old man being threashed to death by half a dozen travel agents in Cannaught Place;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against travel agencies, which promise to send people out of the country, in return for huge amounts of money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The reported incident took place on 13th November, 1999 and a case was registered on the same day at Connaught Place Police Station in which two of the accused persons were arrested and placed in judicial custody. Non-bailable warrants against the other accused persons have also been obtained from the Court.

(c) As and when complaints of cognizable offences by travel agents/agencies are received, criminal cases are registered by the police and investigated to ensure that the guilty, if any, are brought to book.

Circulation of Fake Currency in North-East

823. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale circulation of fake currency notes in the country's North-East region, believed to be handi work of Pakistan's ISI and suspected to have found its way to the RBI;